UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 4-28-72

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA
REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO FBI RECORDS -
CONGRESSMAN RICHARD H. ICHORD (D-MO.)

Reference memorandum of 4-10-72 from Mr. Branigan to Mr. Miller wherein it was recommended and approved that contact be made with Congressman Richard Ichord (D-Mo.) or appropriate members of his staff to determine his need for three specific documents relating to Bureau sources and operations which the Congressman had requested from Archives along with a number of other documents from the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

This matter was first discussed by Inspector Bowers with Donald Sanders, Chief Counsel of the House Committee on Internal Security which Congressman Ichord is Chairman, on 4-12-72. Sanders, a former Special Agent with whom we enjoy an excellent relationship, advised he was aware of Congressman Ichord's request for certain Warren Commission documents from the Archives, although he had not handled this matter. He stated the request had been handled by William Hecht, a new Assistant in the Congressman's office. Sanders said he understands the request was made for an individual whose name he believed to be Fensterwald. Sanders was asked if this might be Benard Fensterwald, former Chief Counsel of the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practices and Procedures when it was Chaired by Senator Edward Long (D-Mo.) and who is now head of an organization he founded known as the National Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Sanders stated he was not sure but added this would appear to be a reasonable assumption. Sanders was briefly advised of Fensterwald's [redacted] background and the fact that his National Committee to Investigate Assassinations includes other [redacted] individuals such as Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney; William Turner, former FBI Agent; and Fred J. Cook, [redacted] writer and severe critic of the FBI. Sanders expressed concern that Congressman Ichord might have inadvertently become involved with such a crowd.

REC 21 (105-82555)

EX-112

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Miller
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
1 - Mr. Bowers

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M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

On 4-13-72 Bowers called at the office of Congressman Ichord to speak with his Assistant, William Hecht, concerning this matter. Moments after Bowers arrived in the office Benard Fensterwald entered and conversation with the receptionist indicated he had an appointment with Hecht and also hoped to see the Congressman. Fensterwald did not recognize Bowers although they had several contacts while Fensterwald was employed by the Senate Subcommittee.

The matter of the Congressman's request for the Warren Commission documents was discussed with Hecht on 4-13-72 and he implied the Congressman wanted these documents in connection with his position as Chairman of the House Committee on Internal Security. He asked if it might be possible for him to review the classified documents and furnish the Congressman a summary to relieve the Congressman of the time-consuming task of having to personally review lengthy documents. Hecht was advised that under the circumstances it was felt the matter should be discussed personally with Congressman Ichord. Hecht stated that while the Congressman was then in the office he had a full schedule for the afternoon and indicated he would set an appointment for Bowers to discuss this matter with the Congressman in the near future.

Since that time, Hecht has been contacted on several occasions concerning the need for an appointment to resolve this matter with the Congressman, and Hecht has indicated he has been unable to arrange for an appointment. On 4-26-72 Sanders advised he had discussed this matter briefly with Congressman Ichord and told him of Bowers' desire to see him as soon as possible to get the matter resolved. Sanders stated the Congressman remarked that he also has pending a request from CIA for an appointment on the same matter and indicated he would discuss the matter with Hecht to arrange appointments in the near future. No further word has been heard from Hecht regarding an appointment.

Our relations with Congressman Ichord are excellent. It seems apparent he has been brought into this matter by his Assistant, Hecht, and that the documents really are wanted for Fensterwald who has publicly stated that the purpose of his National Committee to Investigate Assassinations is "to embarrass or force the Government to make investigations they have been putting off since November 22, 1963." Undoubtedly, Congressman Ichord is not aware of Fensterwald's [redacted] background or of the identities of others affiliated with him in the National Committee to Investigate Assassinations. He will be briefed in confidence concerning these individuals when an appointment is arranged with him regarding this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

WGC
DWB
TCB
PMS